



**NORTH DAKOTA**  
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:  
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### **Governor Dalrymple Recognizes 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Newborn Screening**

BISMARCK, N.D. – Governor Jack Dalrymple has recognized 2013 as the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Newborn Screening.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Newborn Screening is a time to celebrate saving babies' lives through screening. North Dakota will be participating in the "Be Bold, Wear Gold" campaign in conjunction with *Baby's First Test*. The celebratory color of gold is used to commemorate the event and recognizes the contributions that health-care providers make every day to improve the health of our state's children. In honor of this event, the North Dakota Newborn Screening program will be displaying a newborn screening banner and information for health-care providers, parents and families at local events, birthing hospitals and at clinics throughout the state.

"Newborn screening is a public health system success story," said State Health Officer Terry Dwelle, M.D. "These screening innovations are considered among the greatest public health achievements of the early 21<sup>st</sup> century."

Newborn screening began 50 years ago by testing for phenylketonuria (PKU). Currently, North Dakota screens for over 40 disorders, such as cystic fibrosis (CF), as well as for heart and hearing conditions. These screenings look for signs of rare but serious conditions that may not be apparent at birth.

"Newborn screening promotes early identification and treatment before an infant gets sick, which may make the difference between health and disability, or even life and death," said Becky Bailey, Newborn Screening Program director for the Department of Health. "This allows most babies to develop normally and live healthy lives."

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Visit the health department home page at [www.ndhealth.gov](http://www.ndhealth.gov).

“Newborn screening is one of the most important things families can do for the health of their baby,” said Katie Bentz, Nurse Consultant for the Newborn Screening Program. “We encourage families to discuss newborn screening with their health-care providers.”

To view additional newborn screening information, click here:

<http://www.ndhealth.gov/newbornscreening/>

For more information, contact Becky Bailey at 701.328.4526 or Katie Bentz at 701.328.4538.

*Please note: Proclamation follows.*

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PROCLAMATION  
50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF NEWBORN SCREENING  
2013

**WHEREAS**, newborn screening touches nearly every baby born in the state of North Dakota; and

**WHEREAS**, by screening newborns at birth, early detection can occur; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important for all babies to have access to early intervention and treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, health-care providers promote the healthy lives of newborns by providing this critical service at birth; and

**WHEREAS**, newborn screening, detection and early intervention saves babies’ lives.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby recognize the 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF NEWBORN SCREENING in the state of North Dakota.

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